

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WARSAW 06422 101512Z

47

ACTION SS-25

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R 101142Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3799

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 6422

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4 (IMPOS TO DET)

TAGS: PFOR, PL

SUBJECT: CARDINAL WOJTYLA'S VISIT TO U.S.

REF: STATE 220010

1. AN EMBASSY OFFICER SAW FATHER GOSCINSKI SEPTEMBER 9 AND TOLD HIM THAT, ON THE BASIS OF THE CONVERSATION THEY HAD HAD AUGUST 27, IT HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED THAT CARDINAL WOJTYLA BE INVITED TO MEET THE PRESIDENT AT THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED, BUT THAT IT HAD BEEN DECLINED. GOSCINSKI EXPRESSED SURPRISE. EMBOFF ASKED IF HE HAD MIS-UNDERSTOOD GOSCINSKI'S VIEWS ON THE DESIRABILITY OF INVITING WOJTYLA TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT. WE WERE PUZZLED AT THE CARDINAL'S TURNING DOWN THE INVITATION. HAD GOSCINSKI BEEN SPEAKING IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY WHEN HE SAID THAT HE DID?

2. GOSCINSKI SAID THAT "THE PEOPLE IN THE EPISCOPATE WERE INDEED IN FAVOR OF THE MEETING, AS HE HAS EXPLAINED." HOWEVER, HE SAID, HE WAS EXPRESSING OWN VIEWS DURING THE AUGUST 27 CONVERSATION. BISHOP DABROWSKI HAD SPENT ONLY ONE DAY IN WARSAW FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO POLAND, AND GOSCINSKI HAD NOT HAD A CHANCE TO ASK HIM ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION, BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT WAS A DEAD ISSUE. ONLY DABROWSKI COULD SPEAK WITH AN OFFICIAL VOICE, HE SAID.

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3. WOJTYLA RETURNS TO WARSAW SEPTEMBER 11 (AFTER I SHALL

HAVE LEFT FOR WASHINGTON). CHARGE BROWN WILL MEET HIM AND EXPRESS TO HIM MY REGRET THAT THE CARDINAL COULD NOT ARRANGE TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT. IN ADDITION TO THE CARDINAL'S REACTION, WE WILL CHECK AGAIN LATER WITH GOSCINSKI, WHO HAS SAID HE WOULD FIND OUT WHY WOJTYLA DID NOT ACCEPT THE INVITATION.

4. COMMENT: I RECOGNIZE THE EMBARRASSMENT ARISING FROM WOJTYLA'S DECLINING THE INVITATION. I AM CONVINCED THAT, ON AUGUST 27, GOSCINSKI EXPRESSED THE PREVAILING VIEW IN THE EPISCOPATE. I AM RELIEVED THAT THE INVITATION WAS EXTENDED. I REGRET TO SAY THAT, IF IT HAD NOT BEEN, I VERY MUCH FEAR WE SHOULD HAVE HEARD FURTHER ABOUT THE SUBJECT. IF THERE SHOULD NOW BE AN QUESTION FROM ANY QUARTER ON THIS SUBJECT, I RECOMMEND THAT WE SAY AN APPROACH WAS MADE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE CARDINAL COULD ACCEPT AN INVITATION, IF IT WERE EXTENDED, AND WERE TOLD THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO CHANGE HIS PLANS. ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS (I.E., ABOUT WHY HE WAS UNABLE) CAN BE REFERRED TO HIM. END COMMENT.
DAVIES

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NNN

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